Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add Claims 25-30 as follows.

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New)   An image processing method, comprising:

a face probability calculating step of identifying a candidate for a human face region

within an image and calculating a human face probability that the candidate for the human face

region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating step of multiplying a value corresponding to the

human face probability and calculating a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a judging step of judging whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait

probability with a threshold value.

26. (New)   An image processing method according to Claim 25, wherein said

portrait probability calculating step includes a selecting step of selecting higher K human face

probabilities from among the human face probabilities calculated in said face probability

calculating step and a multiplying step of multiplying values corresponding to the selected K human face probabilities.

27. (New)   An image processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising an image processing step of processing the image in accordance with the result in said judging step.

28. (New)   An image processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising a saving step of saving human face probabilities regarding each of a plurality of partial spaces in M-dimensional space,

wherein, in said face probability calculating step, M-dimensional vectors are generated by applying a predetermined algorithm to the candidate for the human face region and a probability that the partial spaces corresponding to the generated M-dimensional vectors represent a human face is calculated from among the saved human face probabilities.

29. (New)   An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a face probability calculating unit that identifies a candidate for a human face region within an image and calculates a human face probability that the candidate for the human face region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating unit that multiplies a value corresponding to the human face probability and calculates a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a judging unit that judges whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait probability with a threshold value.

30. (New)   A program embodied on a computer-readable medium for performing an image processing method, said method comprising:

a face probability calculating step of identifying a candidate for a human face region within an image and calculating a human face probability that the candidate for the human face region represents a human face;

a portrait probability calculating step of multiplying a value corresponding to the human face probability and calculating a portrait probability that the image is a portrait; and

a judging step of judging whether the image is the portrait by comparing the portrait probability with a threshold value.